



WFP South Sudan Country Brief

June 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

The signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan in September 2018 gave rise to hopes for an end to the violence. Although the civil conflict has largely abated in most parts of the country, the relative stability experienced in 2019 remains fragile and is often not reflected at local levels where subnational conflict persists. The multifaceted nature of the crisis continues to disrupt local economy, increase displacements and reduce access to basic services and education. This continues to increase the vulnerability of the population with 7.5 million people – more than two thirds of the population – in need of humanitarian assistance in 2020. Nearly 4 million people remain displaced: 1.5 million internally and 2.2 million as refugees in neighbouring countries. The country remains in a critical period of unprecedented severe food insecurity with 6.48 million people considered food insecure at the height of the 2020 lean season.

The COVID-19 pandemic presents serious risks to an already fragile situation. COVID-19 is certain to exacerbate acute food insecurity, particularly for market-reliant populations.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not

Population: **12 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **188 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **33 percent of children between 6-59 months**

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Further information: <https://www1.wfp.org/countries/south-sudan>

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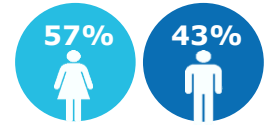
In Numbers

23,164 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*

US\$ 0.42 m in cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 324 m six months (July – December '20) net funding requirements

1.53 m people assisted*
*in May 2020



Operational Updates

- In May, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 1.53 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), Nutrition and Livelihoods and Resilience activities in South Sudan. Through Rapid Response teams, WFP dispatched enough GFA for 58,685 people, including 11,500 children under five, in hard to reach areas across four counties in Jonglei State.
- WFP has prepositioned 152,200 mt of food commodities, equivalent to 80 percent of the planned 190,530 mt and enough to serve over 2.8 million people for six months, in areas that will become inaccessible in the rainy season.

COVID-19 Updates

- South Sudan has 2,1488 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 333 recoveries and 41 deaths as of 06 July 2020. The numbers are expected to be higher as there is a backlog of samples pending testing.
- At the end of June, WFP had reached 3.7 million people, with one to three months' worth of food assistance. In the first round (April-May) 2.8 million people received more than one month's worth of assistance to preposition food commodities at the household level, to avoid large gatherings, minimize risks and promote social distancing.
- WFP is planning to reach 3.8 million people with the ongoing second round of one to three months' worth of assistance. Of these, 2.5 million people are planned to receive more than one month's worth of assistance. With the second round, 1.3 million people have been reached so far with close to one million having received more than one month's worth of assistance.
- Compared to the third week of March, when COVID-19 related transport restrictions came into place, the average retail prices of imported white sorghum (feterita) sharply increased within a range of 50–100 percent in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Unity states, and most of the other markets experienced price increases within a range of 10–35 percent.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
2.97 b	1.65 b	267 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure people in crisis-affected areas have access to safe and nutritious food all year round.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations.
- Provide food and nutrition assistance to refugees

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: People at risk of malnutrition in crisis-affected areas, especially young children and pregnant and lactating women, are able to meet their basic nutrition requirements all year round.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide nutrition assistance to populations at risk of malnutrition

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and Income

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in non-conflict zones have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to seasonal climate shocks throughout the year.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support and build the resilience of rural households

Strategic Result 8: Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 4: The humanitarian community in South Sudan has access to reliable common services until satisfactory alternatives are available.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Operate Air Services for the Humanitarian Community
- Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in Support of the Humanitarian Community
- Supply Chain provision
- Inter-Agency IT Communication Service
- SCOPE Service to humanitarian partners
- Provision of IT services to the humanitarian community

Donors (listed alphabetically) *

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America

*Excluding multilateral and private donors

Common Services

- Thanks to the support of the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), UNHAS has acquired a dedicated aircraft to support the COVID-19 response in South Sudan. The aircraft is funded for six months and is being used to transport samples and COVID-19 related cargo including personal protective equipment (PPE).
- UNHAS has transported 137 suspected COVID-19 samples from across South Sudan to Juba for testing at the Public Health Laboratory.
- WFP Global Passenger Services flights between Addis Ababa and Juba have been terminated. Instead, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in South Sudan will be operating ad-hoc flights between Juba and Addis Ababa as part of its regular service to temporarily compliment commercial flights until full reliability is restored.
- WFP is donating 300,000 masks to frontline health workers. Following PPE allocation by the inter-agency COVID-19 technical team, 124,000 WFP-procured masks were dispatched to International Medical Corps, MSF Belgium, MSF France, MSF Holland, MSF Spain and WHO across the country. The Logistics Cluster is providing a free-to-user air transport service, when needed.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 267 million to sustain operations through December 2020. This is inclusive of needs for new food assistance needs and additional operational costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The general security situation remains fragile, with security concerns across the country due to elevated levels of subnational conflict.
- WFP is particularly concerned about the upsurge of subnational conflict in Jonglei State. The ongoing violence is creating a critical challenge to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in affected areas. WFP is advocating with all parties to allow combatants to return to their own areas and a humanitarian pause put in place to enable the delivery of humanitarian services and assistance, including food distributions, to vulnerable populations.
- Humanitarian operational space has also been significantly challenged and restricted due to the recent conflicts. Looting and destruction of humanitarian supplies, loss of humanitarian lives and the inability to guarantee safe operational space has resulted in necessary suspension and delays of humanitarian assistance which is, for many, already affected by serious food and nutrition insecurity a critical source of coping.
- COVID-19 related movement restrictions have slowed the flow of humanitarian cargo into and within South Sudan. The completion of the prepositioning exercise is contingent on timely delivery of food into and within the country.
- As all schools were closed by authorities on 21 March to prevent the spread of COVID-19, WFP's school feeding-activities nationwide were suspended, affecting the provision of assistance to more than 460,000 children.